

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 218020

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL MTN GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218020

FOLLOWING REPEAT BOGOTA 7807 ACTION SECSTATE 18 AUG

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7807

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, CO

SUBJECT: TRADE CONSULTATIONS WITH COLOMBIA

REF: BOGOTA 6885

1. I AGAIN DISCUSSED THE TRADE CONSULTATION QUESTION WITH DEVELOPMENT MINISTER RAMIREZ ON AUG 18. HE IS NOW CONSIDERING SENDING TWO PEOPLE TO WASHINGTON FOR THE TECHNICAL-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS RATHER THAN HAVING A U.S. TEAM VISIT BOGOTA. HE ADDED HOWEVER THAT THIS PLAN WAS STILL SUBJECT TO SOME FURTHER CHECKING AND THAT HE WOULD CONFIRM IT WITH ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN THE MEANTIME HE ASKED THAT I TENTATIVELY CLEAR WITH THE DEPARMMENT THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING THE DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON DURING THE SECOND OR THIRD WEEK IN SEPTEMBER.

2. THE MINISTER THOUGHT IT WOULD FACILITATE MATTERS ON HIS SIDE IF THE DEPARTMENT COULD DESIGNATE A CENTRAL CONTACT POINT (SUCH AS ARA/ECP) TO COORDINATE AND CONTROL ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THE CONSULTATIONS. HE ALSO CONSIDERED
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PAGE 02 STATE 218020

IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO FOCUS THE DISCUSSIONS CAREFULLY SO

THAT THE TWO SIDES WOULD BE ABLE TO DRAW SOME DEFINITE
CONCLUSIONS FROM THEM.

3. A TENTATIVE AGENDA OF TIEMS THAT THE GOC WOULD LIKE TO
COVER IN THE TECHNICAL-LEVEL DISCUSSION IS BEING SENT SEPTTEL.
WHILE THE AGENDA ITEMS ARE VERY BROADLY AND COMPREHENSIVELY
STATED, THE MINISTER INDICATED THAT WHAT HE HAD IN MIND WAS
A TECHNICAL DISCUSSION, I.E. WHAT THE LAW SAYS, HOW
CIRCUMSTANCES ARE TO BE INTERPRETED, HOW THE LAW AND
CIRCUMSTANCES APPLY TO COLOMBIA, ETC.

4. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST WHETHER DEPARTMENT CAN (A)
RECEIVE THE GOC TEAM ON THE DATES INDICATED AND (B) DESIGNATE
A CENTRAL CONTACT POINT AS DESIRED BY THE MINISTER.

VAKY

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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